

Message

From: Elizabeth Erwin [Erwin.ElizabethLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]
Sent: 4/20/2011 6:33:08 PM
To: Clark, Becki [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a906e07f1cd143b9a3c2ddab813b8140-Clark, Becki]; Flowers, Lynn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a4411c874d041b9a8badfc32b91bd70-Flowers, Lynn]; Michael Slimak [Slimak.MichaelLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Barone, Stan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a4f8618acbb418da24c110f3123a2af-Barone, Stan]; Ila Cote [Cote.IlaLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Jones, Samantha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=eac77fe3b20c4667b8c534c90c15a830-Jones, Samantha]; Birchfield, Norman [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c910f2fd28414e819b6afe6dda525e9f-Birchfield, Norman]; Avery, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b0fc9e70467647709fa9377dfb987f10-Avery, James]; Anne Grambsch [Grambsch.AnneLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Shaw, Denise [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=556182b3879649039b11d36e5e09d9aa-Shaw, Denise]; CN=Madalene Stevens/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA; Kadry, Abdel-Razak [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=acb325507bf7451b9735813cfe5e417-Kadry, Abdel-Razak]; Karen Hammerstrom [Hammerstrom.KarenLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Bussard, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cf26b876393e44f38bdd06db02dbbfe5-Bussard, David]; Charles Ris [Ris.CharlesLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Perovich, Gina [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6e3c19d7f4db41bfa2477aa27ad83945-Perovich, Gina]; White, Paul [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e179825823c44ebbb07a9704e1e5d16-White, Paul]; Bob Sonawane [Sonawane.BobLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Frithsen, Jeff [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e3743bd6f3c345baaae407c1d6f78e92-FRITHSEN, JEFF]; Gatchett, Annette [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f12d699a71f84e21bddbb876dae7f96c-Gatchett, Annette]; Hawkins, Belinda [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=075561d171e845828ec67a945663a8e6-Hawkins, Belinda]; Troyer, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=847b0020dd0e457e85f994a1ad64b26d-Troyer, Michael]; Vandenberg, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dcae2b98a04540fb8d099f9d4dead690-Vandenberg, John]; Debra Walsh [Walsh.DebraLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Sams, Reeder [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5b479ccd894cea99ae55df20de6971-Sams, Reeder]; Ross, Mary [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98359cd1f66f46ec91d327e99a3c6909-Ross, Mary]; Strong, Jamie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea753aafefb74c268550fe6a2c187838-Benedict, Jamie]; Hotchkiss, Andrew [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=10f01ccc8611401bb34d16b71a87d3d5-Hotchkiss, Andrew]; Rieth, Susan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=00aac63cc995489188b8a449aaa18f5e-Rieth, Susan]; Martin Gehlhaus [Gehlhaus.MartinLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Raffaele, Kathleen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cc48281bbab34bf5bf3ab1a63780d5ca-Kathleen Raffaele]; Berner, Ted [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f1949c9653024d3cb4aa4c2bd69c4fde-Berner, Ted]; Peter Preuss [Preuss.PeterLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Deener, Kathleen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b9a2ff1c086249ea8f6414afde8a5e54-Deener, Kathleen]; Winner, Darrell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=860556f5cd0f4855839907bcc90b2c41-Winner, Darrell]; Murphy, Patricia [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e02a7540f8042fda07eed1248addaf7-Murphy, Patricia]; Weihsueh Chiu [Chiu.WeihsuehLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Corona, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative

Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=18d86fb8269b4557b5d06622b3a941af-Corona, Elizabeth]; Elizabeth Erwin [Erwin.ElizabethLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]; Cogliano, Vincent [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51f2736376ac4d32bad2fe7cfef2886b-Cogliano, Vincent]; CN=Audrey Hoffer/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA; Gwinn, Maureen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4bdc5237a5c440a7b664518e23eb5647-Gwinn, Maureen]; CN=Doug Johns/OU=RTP/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA

Subject: NEWS UPDATES: Draft Methanol Analysis Would Set New Inhalation Value, Tighten Oral Value (BNA)

Draft Methanol Analysis Would Set New Inhalation Value, Tighten Oral Value

In a draft assessment of the noncancer human health effects of methanol, the Environmental Protection Agency on April 18 proposed a new inhalation level and a revised oral ingestion exposure level that would not be harmful ([76 Fed. Reg. 2011](#)).

When issued as a final Integrated Risk Information System assessment (IRIS), the hazard and dose-response information would be used for agency, state, and other risk assessors to determine whether specific exposure scenarios would pose a risk to human health.

Gregory A. Dolan, the Methanol Institute's executive director for the Americas and Europe, said he was concerned the draft document concludes that levels of methanol people may routinely consume as a natural constituent of fruits and other foods would not be safe. The institute represents methanol producers and other companies.

EPA's draft assessment proposed the first daily inhalation concentration level, called a reference concentration or RfC, that is expected to be without harm. The proposed RfC is 2 milligrams methanol per cubic meter air.

Slight Decrease in Oral Ingestion Rate

The document proposed to slightly decrease the oral ingestion rate—or reference dose—from 0.5 milligrams per kilogram bodyweight per day (mg/kg-day), set in 1993, to 0.4 mg/kg-day.

The April 18 updated assessment does not address cancer, because that part of the evaluation has been placed on hold while the agency works with the U.S. National Toxicology Program and the Italian Ramazzini Institute to resolve differences in the scientific interpretation of cancer bioassays conducted at the institute in Bentivoglio, Italy ([70 DEN A-7, 4/12/11](#)).

Methanol (CAS No. 67-56-1), also known as methyl alcohol, wood alcohol, wood naphtha, or wood spirits, is present naturally in the body through metabolism and through dietary sources such as eating fruit or vegetables or drinking alcoholic beverages, EPA said.

Methanol also is a “building block” industrial chemical produced in high volumes, meaning 1 million pounds or more annually in the United States. It is used to make hundreds of products, including motor fuel, varnishes, windshield washer fluids, adhesives, and paints, EPA said.

Releases and disposal of about 135 million pounds of methanol in 2008 were reported to EPA through the Toxics Release Inventory, according to EPA.

Global demand for methanol is growing, according to EPA's draft assessment. For example, global demand for biodiesel, which methanol helps make, is forecast to increase from 30 million gallons in 2004 to 350 million gallons by 2013, the analysis said.

Industry Has Concerns

Dolan said he was not aware of any particular regulations or standards the IRIS assessment could affect, but the draft's conclusions concerned him.

Since methanol is a naturally occurring chemical in the human body, EPA should look at realistic exposure levels and determine whether they are causing problems, he said.

Based on EPA's analysis, a person who routinely drinks a glass of orange juice would be consuming levels of methanol that could be harmful, he said.

EPA's notice said the agency will accept comment on its draft assessment through June 17.

The agency will hold a listening session May 26 at which interested parties can provide information about methanol.

Comments on the draft assessment should be marked EPA docket number EPA-HQ-ORD-2009-0398 and submitted via <http://www.regulations.gov>.

By Pat Rizzuto

Elizabeth Erwin
Communications Assistant
National Center for Environmental Assessment
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: (703) 347-0205
Fax: (703) 347-8699